



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

September 27, 2000

The Honorable Dan Miller
Chairman, Subcommittee on the Census
Committee on Government Reform
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As the Administration and the U.S. Congress continue to work on the Fiscal Year 2001 budget, I wish to update you on the 2000 decennial census.

In Fiscal Year 2000, Congress passed and the President enacted a significant funding level of nearly \$4.5 billion to conduct Census 2000. This strong bipartisan support coupled with the enthusiastic participation of the American people and a dedicated Census Bureau workforce has contributed to a good census.

Recently, you received a request from the Department of Commerce to reprogram \$65.4 million across frameworks in the 2000 decennial budget. Having completed the detailed analysis necessary for this reprogramming request, we have prepared a preliminary estimate of decennial census costs through the fiscal year. This estimate is necessarily preliminary because we are still in the process of closing down 520 field offices and otherwise completing field operations. The estimate does account for a number of major coverage improvement and quality control procedures during the later months of field operations.

I am pleased to report that the decennial budget of the Census Bureau for FY 2000 will have a surplus of at least \$305 million.

Detailed analysis will be necessary to explain what contributed to the budget surplus, but two factors undoubtedly will weigh heavily: (1) the substantially higher than expected mailback response rate (67% rather than the expected 61%); (2) the better than expected quality of the field management team in the 520 local offices coupled with the excellent performance of a number of automated systems, including the payroll and administration system (PAMS/ADAMS).

We still have considerable work to do to meet the two major deadlines of releasing apportionment counts by December 31, 2000, and the redistricting counts by April 1, 2001. The Census Bureau believes it will complete that work on schedule and on

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

www.census.gov

budget, and that these two data products will be the most accurate numbers possible within the constraints of statutory deadlines.

Thank you for your continued support of Census 2000 and the Census Bureau.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Prewitt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Kenneth Prewitt
Director

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney